



State of Arizona

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Arizona Dept. of Health Services Presents Governor Brewer with Report on H1N1 Preparation and Response Efforts

PHOENIX – Today the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) delivered a report to Arizona Governor Jan Brewer detailing its H1N1 planning and response efforts. This report highlights how ADHS is partnering with stakeholders in both the public and private sector to reduce the impact of influenza during the upcoming influenza season by establishing and promoting vaccination and public education programs, monitoring the impact of the virus, and focusing intervention strategies to protect populations at unique risk of severe infection. It is anticipated that Arizona will begin receiving limited shipments of the first H1N1 vaccinations in mid-October. Seasonal influenza vaccinations are arriving to Arizona this month.

“The State has a very good response plan in place, and an opportunity to mitigate the impact from this strain of influenza if we all work together,” stated Governor Brewer. “The potential consequences to the general public and Arizona’s economy are significant even if only 25 – 30 percent of people get influenza. We want to encourage awareness and consideration of both the seasonal flu and H1N1 vaccinations as they become available.”

Recent research showed most people need only one dose of the H1N1 vaccine, which will be available in Arizona next month. Because it is a new vaccine, supplies will be limited at first to children and to the most at-risk for complications; eventually it will be available for everyone.

“Our statewide public health intervention and vaccination plans are in good shape. Our focus now is to prepare our partners to carry out the plans in the most efficient way possible. We are all

poised to work together, and I'm optimistic that our efforts will work," said Will Humble, Interim Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Regarding the current situation, Humble added; "We're seeing a lot of transmission of the new virus in our elementary schools right now, and the most important thing that the public can do is make sure that they don't send their kids to school when they're sick."

In addition to considering the seasonal flu shot and H1N1 vaccine when it becomes available, it is vitally important to take the proper hygiene measures to protect against the H1N1 virus such as covering your cough with a tissue or sleeve, washing your hands often or using antibacterial cleanser and avoiding touching your eyes, mouth or nose. Most importantly, stay home if you are sick and encourage your loved ones do the same. For more information about the illness and prevention, please visit www.stopthespreadaz.org

"The foresight, planning and preparation by Interim Director Will Humble, Arizona's Department of Health Services and its local partners has been superb," stated Governor Brewer. "I have confidence that together they have prepared our state to handle the upcoming flu season and the likelihood of additional H1N1 cases very effectively and strategically."

The Preparedness and Response Activity Report by ADHS to Governor Brewer can be viewed at the Governor's website: www.azgovernor.gov

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